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Grant County Charity Hospital reports

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Report of the Grant County Charity Hospital, <two years ending December 1, 1904>

Report of the Grant County Hospital, <January 1, 1905 to January 1, 1906>

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EXHIBIT "A 3."

REPORT

OF THE

DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH

For the Two Years Ending

December 1, 1904.

REPORT.

WARDEN'S OFFICE,
Santa Fe, N. M., Dec. 10, 1904.

To His Excellency, Miguel A. Otero, Governor of New Mexico.

SIR: In accordance with your request, I beg to submit a report of the doings of this office during the past two years. I have the honor to be

Very respectfully,
PAGE B. OTERO, Warden.

Since my appointment on the 23rd day of March, 1903, I have endeavored to organize the Territory for the protection of game and fish, by the appointment of deputy wardens in every county, more particularly in those counties where such conditions existed as to demand extra precautions. There are now serving under such commissions 87 deputies. I have been unable with the means afforded me, to personally visit and inspect every county, and, while I require a monthly report from each deputy, these reports have been very irregular in coming in, and I consequently have only indefinite data regarding the work done in making arrests for violation of the law. However, I can safely state that under the new law, game of all kinds is now on the increase, and were it not for ravages of bear, mountain lion, lynx, wolf, coyote, fox and other obnoxious animals, our ranges would be in very fair shape.

In correspondence on this latter subject with Mr. Vernon Bailey and Hon. T. S. Palmer of the Agricultural Department, Washington, D. C., I have some interesting literature issued by that Department on the subject of bounties on such wild animals, showing that the bounty system had not proved successful, and so far I have found no other remedy to suggest. The work of deputies has been hampered owing to the lack of compensation, but since the hunting

season opened this year this office has been advised of seven arrests and convictions of violations of the law. The deputies in Taos county have been unusually active in keeping the Inians within bounds, while the Sportsman's Club of Silver City, Raton, Las Vegas and Santa Fe have also been doing good work.

Owing to the late floods our trout streams are in poor condition. I have sent to Washington, D. C., applications for trout but will not be able to get any until April next, so will be unable to re-stock any of the streams until then. I have applied for 200,000 fish for the Pecos River and side streams, and 125,000 for the Chama and Brazos. Numerous other applications have been sent out for individuals.

I have put in a great deal of time and labor in my endeavors to have the government give this territory a fish hatchery, and H. R. No. 5665 is now pending for the purpose. In a recent conversation with Mr. B. S. Rodey, Delegate to Congress, he informed me that the bill would undoubtedly pass.

I think that the open season on deer should be changed from November 1st to October 1st, and close on November 15th, instead of December 31st of each year.

Beaver should be protected for ten years.

Antelope for two years longer at least.

Elk and mountain sheep for at least ten years.

Pheasant of every species for five years.

There should be a closed season on all kinds of water fowl.

The open season on quail should be from Oct. 1st to Nov. 30th.

On doves from Sept. 1st until Oct. 31st.

None of the game animals, birds or fish should be allowed to be sold at any time.

I have made several visits to Denver duiring my term of office, partly to study the methods at the State Fish Hatchery, and partly to consult with Mr. J. M. Woodard, commissioner, as to the protection of game and fish along the line, and have often felt the result of his hearty cooperation.

I have spent quite a lot of time in the ranges taking notes as to game conditions, part of the time in company with Mr. Bailey, Chief Field Naturalist of the Biological Survey, U. S.

Department of Agriculture, and not only received many valuable suggestions from him but continue to receive reports as to his investigations.

I visited Raton to confer with the owners of the Maxwell Grant, and arranged satisfactorily for the protection of game and fish and their propagation on that fine large tract.

I have visited Taos, Sierra and Socorro counties for the purpose of looking up Apache and Navajo Indians off their reservations.

While there is still room for improvement and a great deal of work yet to be done, I beg to state in conclusion that, this being the first experiment, the general condition of our ranges and streams are greatly improved, and the territory has been highly complimented on its efforts in this direction, both by sportsmen from here and elsewhere, and by the Department of Agriculture at Washington, D. C.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

P. B. OTERO,
Warden.